In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

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1   1.   [Currently amended] A method for providing procurement

2   services to a plurality of customer companies, comprising

3   the steps of:

4   establishing in a computer database a user profile for

5   associating acceptable accounting and system controls

6   to each person authorized by a customer company to

7   access said procurement services;

8   associating each said company with a company group of

9   related companies;

10   providing common code defining workflow components

11   common to all companies within said company group,

12   including accounting validation and approval

13   processing;

14   said user profile specifying for each said user a user

15   company and company group so as to define said controls

16   based on company and company group;

17   providing for each procurement resource to be shared

18   among said users a resource profile in a computer

19   database specifying for each resource those said

20   companies to have access to and share said procurement

21   resource; and

22   responsive to said user profile and said resource

23   profiles, controlling user access to said procurement

24   resources.

1   2.   [Original]   The method of claim 1, further comprising

2   the step of providing said procurement resources in a front-

3   end catalog and requisition server.

1   3.   [Original]   The method of claim 2, further comprising

2   the steps of:

3   receiving a user request from a first client browser to

4   log in to said front-end server;

5   responsive to said request, providing a user interface

6   at said client browser only to procurement resources

7   authorized by said user profile and said resource

8   profiles.

1   4.   [Original]   The method of claim 2, further comprising

2   the steps of:

3   receiving requests from a plurality of users authorized

4   by different company groups to enter a requisition to a

5   vendor with respect to the same catalog or contract

6   resource; and

7   generating separate purchase orders to said vendor with

8   respect to requisitions originating with users from

9   each said company group.

1   5.   [Original]   The method of claim 4, further comprising

2   the steps of:

3   leveraging procurement buys from a plurality of company

4   groups with respect to the same volume specific

5   contract for goods or services.

1   6.   [Original]   The method of claim 2, further comprising

2   the steps of:

3   allowing said user to apply procurement charges to

4   charge centers only within his company group.

1   7.   [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement

2   resources including a vendor catalog.

1   8.   [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement

2   resources including a blanket order procurement contract for

3   goods or services.
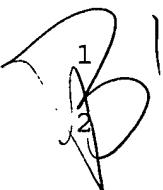
1   9.   [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement

2   resources including a user profile table.

1   10.   [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement

2   resources including costs centers.

1   11.   [Original] The method of claim 3, said procurement

2   resources including accounting general ledger codes with

3   company group specific accounting rules and defaults.

1   12.   [Currently amended] System for providing procurement

2   services to a plurality of customer companies, comprising:

3   a front end server;

4   a user profile <u>associating acceptable accounting and</u>

5   <u>system controls</u> for each person authorized by a

6   customer company to access said procurement services;

7   each said company associated with a company group of

8   related companies;

9   <u>common code defining workflow components common to all</u>

10   <u>companies within said company group, including</u>

11   <u>accounting validation and approval processing;</u>

12   said user profile specifying for each said user a user
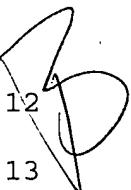
13   company and company group <u>so as to define said controls</u>

14   <u>based on company and company group;</u>

15   a plurality of procurement resources to be shared among

16   said users;

17   a resource profile for each said procurement resource

18   specifying those said companies to have access to <u>and</u>

19   <u>share</u> said procurement resource; and

20   said user profile and said resource profiles for

21   controlling user access to said procurement resources.

1   13.   [Original]   The system of claim 12, said procurement

2   resources further comprising:

3   vendor catalog;

4   a blanket order procurement contract for goods or

5   services; and

6   a table of user profiles.

1   14.   [Original]   The system of claim 12, said procurement

2   resources further comprising:

3   costs centers; and

4   accounting general ledger codes with company group

5   specific accounting rules and defaults.

1   15.   [Currently amended]   A program storage device readable

2   by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions

3   executable by a machine to perform method steps for

4   providing procurement services to a plurality of customer

5   companies, said method steps comprising:

6   establishing a user profile for <u>associating acceptable</u>

7   <u>accounting and system controls to</u> each person

8   authorized by a customer company to access said

9   procurement services;

10   associating each said company with a company group of

11   related companies;

12   <u>providing common code defining workflow components</u>

13   <u>common to all companies within said company group,</u>

14   <u>including accounting validation and approval</u>

15   <u>processing;</u>

16   said user profile specifying for each said user a user

17   company and company group <u>so as to define said controls</u>

18   <u>based on company and company group</u>;

19   providing for each procurement resource to be shared

20   among said users a resource profile specifying for each

21   resource those said companies to have access to <u>and</u>

22   <u>share</u> said procurement resource; and

23   responsive to said user profile and said resource

24   profiles, controlling user access to said procurement

25   resources.

1   16. [Original] The program storage device of claim 15,

2   said method steps further comprising providing said

3   procurement resources in a front-end catalog and requisition

4   server.

1   17. [Original] The program storage device of claim 16,

2   said method steps further comprising the steps of:

3   receiving a user request from a first client browser to

4   log in to said front-end server;

5   responsive to said request, providing a user interface

6   at said client browser only to procurement resources

7   authorized by said user profile and said resource

8   profiles.

1   18. [Original] The program storage device of claim 16,

2   said method steps further comprising the steps of:

3   receiving requests from a plurality of users authorized

4   by different company groups to enter a requisition to a

5   vendor with respect to the same catalog or contract

6   resource; and

7   generating separate purchase orders to said vendor with

8   respect to requisitions originating with users from

9   each said company group.

1   19.   [Original] The program storage device of claim 18,said

2   method steps further comprising the steps of:

3   leveraging procurement buys from a plurality of company

4   groups with respect to the same volume specific

5   contract for goods or services.

1   20.   [Original] The program storage device of claim 16,

2   said method steps further comprising the steps of:

3   allowing said user to apply procurement charges to

4   charge centers only within his company group.

1   21.   [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,

2   said procurement resources including a vendor catalog.

1   22.   [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,

2   said procurement resources including a blanket order

3   procurement contract for goods or services.

1   23. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,

2   said procurement resources including a user profile table.

1   24. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,

2   said procurement resources including costs centers.

1   25. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,

2   said procurement resources including accounting general

3   ledger codes with company group specific accounting rules

4   and defaults.

1   26. [Currently amended] A computer program product or

2   computer program element for providing procurement services

3   to a plurality of customer companies according to method

4   steps comprising:

5   establishing a user profile for <u>associating acceptable</u>

6   <u>accounting and system controls to</u> each person

7   authorized by a customer company to access said

8   procurement services;

9   associating each said company with a company group of

10   related companies;

11   <u>providing common code defining workflow components</u>

12   <u>common to all companies within said company group,</u>

13   <u>including accounting validation and approval</u>

14   <u>processing;</u>

15   said user profile specifying for each said user a user

16   company and company group <u>so as to define said controls</u>

17   <u>based on company and company group;</u>

18   providing for each procurement resource to be shared

19   among said users a resource profile specifying for each

20   resource those said companies to have access to <u>and</u>

21   <u>share</u> said procurement resource; and

22   responsive to said user profile and said resource

23   profiles, controlling user access to said procurement

24   resources.